

Pandemic Influenza Ethics Task Force

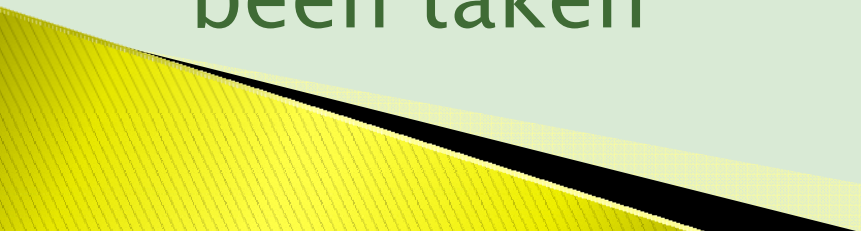
November 19, 2008

DHEC Office of Public Health Preparedness

Purpose

- ▶ To provide a forum for discussion of ethical issues in pandemic influenza planning and preparedness

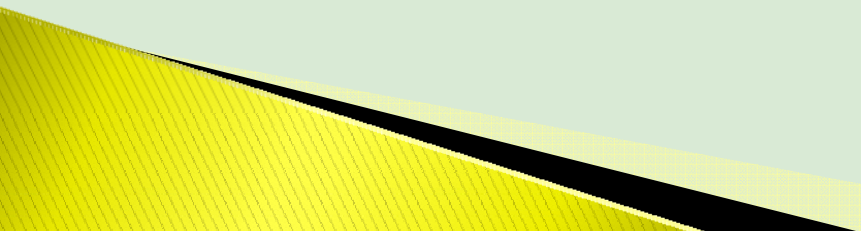
Background

- ▶ Since November 2005, a concerted national effort has been underway to plan for the possibility of a severe influenza pandemic
 - ▶ All 50 states and many Federal government agencies have done extensive planning
 - ▶ Many preparedness measures have been taken
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Background

- ▶ South Carolina formed a Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Council, assessed preparedness and developed strategies:
 - Extensive state, regional and local planning
 - Information sharing meetings to promote awareness and preparedness
 - Multi-media public awareness campaign
 - Targeted multi-media campaigns and technical assistance
 - Stockpiles of antivirals, supplies and equipment
 - Detailed planning for medical surge
 - Expansion of disease surveillance and laboratory capabilities

National Summit Meeting, July 2008: Confronting the Ethics of Pandemic Influenza Planning

- ▶ National call for action
 - Enhance dialogue and partnering
 - Increase and improve education and training
 - Address policy needs
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Some Ethical Issues in Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response

- ▶ Engaging communities in planning and response
 - ▶ Allocation of scarce resources
 - ▶ Altered standards and places of care
 - ▶ Rights and duties of health care workers
 - ▶ Disparities in access to care
 - ▶ Palliative care
 - ▶ Needs of at-risk populations
 - ▶ Appropriate community mitigation strategies
 - ▶ Respecting cultural and religious practices in the face of mass fatalities
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What have the states been doing?

- ▶ Wide range of activities to incorporate an ethical perspective into planning and preparedness measures

Altered standards of medical care

- ▶ Altered standards of care – Virginia

Rationing of scarce resources

- ▶ Allocation of ventilators – New York
- ▶ Allocating pandemic influenza vaccines – Minnesota


Community mitigation strategies

- ▶ Citizen's Voices on Pandemic Flu Choices – Georgia, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oregon

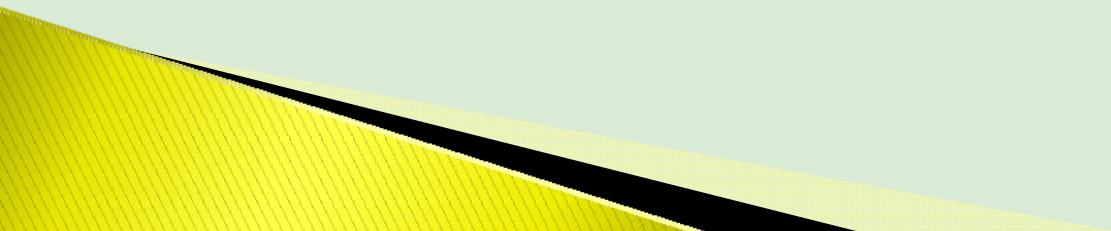
Medical and legal issues

- ▶ Health care workers obligation to work
 - North Carolina
- ▶ Ethics and law – Indiana

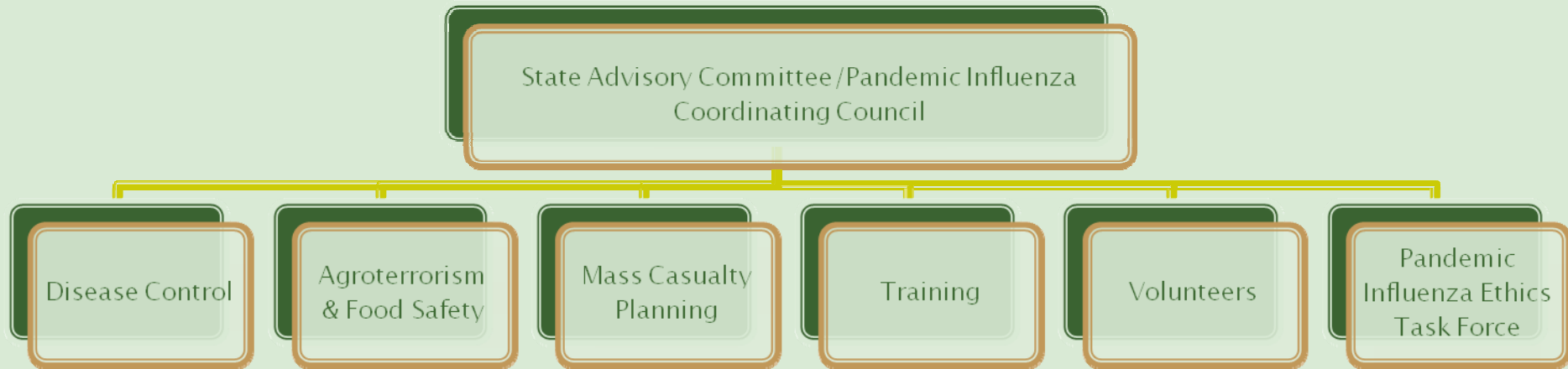
South Carolina's approach

- ▶ Progress in preparing emergency plans according to federal guidance
 - ▶ Significant efforts in public awareness, printed information and video productions
 - ▶ Stockpiling of antiviral medicines and infection control supplies
 - ▶ Ventilator study done by the SC Society for Respiratory Care
 - ▶ Planning for alternate care sites and use of mobile medical units
 - ▶ Strengthening of disease surveillance and laboratory testing
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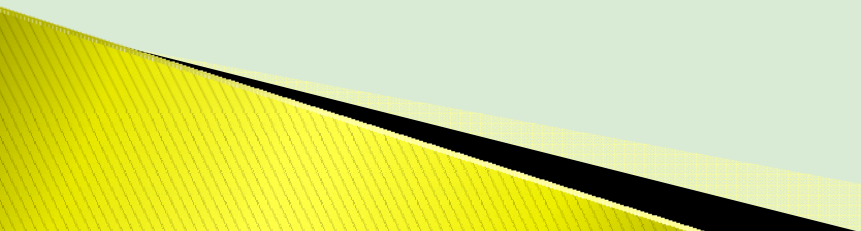
Organization

- ▶ Under the auspices of the State Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Council
 - ▶ Advisory body to the Department of Health and Environmental Control
 - ▶ Pandemic Influenza Ethics Task Force to review plans and preparations, discuss ethical issues, produce guidance recommendations on major topics
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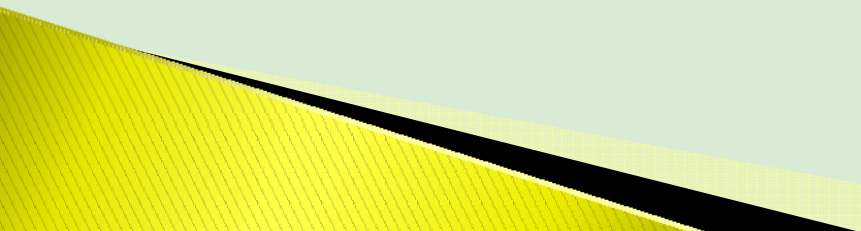
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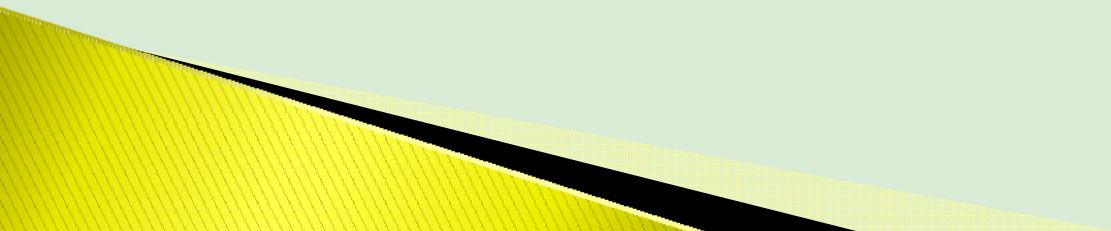
Scope of Work

- ▶ One-year commitment to
 - Review plans and preparedness measures
 - Identify major ethical issues
 - Discuss ethical issues and principles
 - Gather broad public input
 - Prepare recommendations for guidelines
 - Consider legislative aspects
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Tasks and Products

- ▶ Monthly Steering Committee Meetings
 - ▶ Bi-Monthly Task Force Meetings
 - ▶ Ad-hoc work groups on specific issues
 - ▶ Forums for obtaining public input
 - ▶ State Pandemic Influenza Ethics Summit meeting
 - ▶ White paper with guidance and recommendations
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Draft Timetable

- ▶ October 2008 – first Steering Committee meeting
 - ▶ November 2008 – First Task Force meeting
 - ▶ March 2009 – Public forums
 - ▶ May 2009 – Draft paper
 - ▶ May 2009 – State summit
 - ▶ July 2009 – National summit
 - ▶ August 2009 – Final paper
 - ▶ October 2009 – Recommendations for draft legislation
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DHEC Contacts

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